

ACTION COMICS

# 駅弁ひとり旅

1

監修 櫻井寛  
「作画」 はやせ淳



双葉社

ACTION  
COMICS

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# Ekiben Hitoritabi

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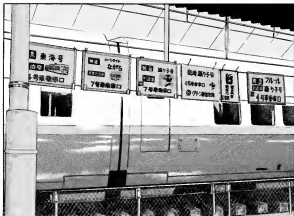
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IT'S  
BEEN  
A  
LONG  
TIME!



\*pan-chute



I'M REALLY  
EXCITED!



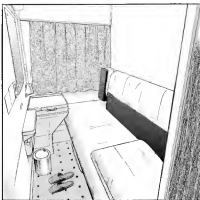
I'M  
EXCIT-  
ED.



\*giddy



SLEEPING  
ROOM A-B...  
THIS IS IT.



TRAVELS  
TO MOJI  
WITH THE  
HAYABUSA  
TRAIN  
(KUMAMOTO  
BOUND).

Passenger Car (Hayabusa) • (Fuji) Tokyo → Kumamoto

← Kumamoto • Oita bound      Oita Tokyo bound →

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
(Down) Kumamoto — Tokyo						(Down) Oita — Tokyo					

THE  
FUJI  
TRAIN  
(OITA  
BOUND)  
I'M ON



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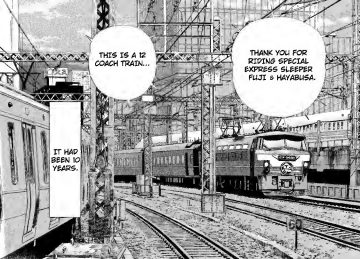
FUJI &  
HAYABUSA  
ARE  
DEPARTING.

WE'RE  
LEAVING.

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THIS IS A 12  
COACH TRAIN...

THANK YOU FOR  
RIDING SPECIAL  
EXPRESS SLEEPER  
FUJI & HAYABUSA.

IT HAD  
BEEN 10  
YEARS.



PLEASE  
SHOW ME  
YOUR  
TICKET.



I HADN'T  
BEEN ON  
A BLUE  
TRAIN  
SINCE MY  
HONEYMOON  
ON.







HALF A MONTH  
AGO, ON THE DAY  
OF OUR TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY...



I'M HAPPY,  
BUT I FEEL  
KIND OF  
SORRY...

\*gachank gachank



YUKO,  
WHAT IS THIS?  
IT'S A TICKET  
TO KYUSHU ON  
A SPECIAL  
EXPRESS  
SLEEPER.



WHAT?



BUT IT'S  
MY  
PRESENT  
TO YOU!

IT'S NOT AS  
GREAT AS THESE  
DIAMONDS YOU  
GOT ME

DAISUKE,  
YOU SAID YOU  
WANTED TO  
TRAVEL ACROSS  
JAPAN BY TRAIN.









KEEP IN MIND WE  
WILL NOT BE  
STOPPING LONG AS  
YOU SHOP AT THE  
PLATFORM.



THERE  
SHOULD BE  
A KIOSK IN  
FRONT OF  
CAR 7.



I'LL GET  
THAT  
YOKOHAMA  
EKIBEN!

I'VE GOT  
A LONG  
NIGHT  
AHEAD OF  
ME.

I NEED  
TO BUY  
ANOTHER  
EKIBEN.



IT ONLY  
STOPS  
FOR A  
MINUTE.



THE BLUE  
TRAINS RUN  
BETWEEN THE  
COMMUTER  
TRAINS, SO  
THE PLATFORM  
IS CROWDED.

THAT'S  
IT!



### SPECIAL EXPRESS ASAKAZE

IN 1968 IT  
MADE ITS  
DEBUT AS  
THE 20  
SERIES  
SLEEPER  
TRAIN  
ASAKAZE,  
ALSO KNOWN  
AS THE BLUE  
TRAIN.



THE BLUE  
TRAIN USED  
TO BE THE  
TOKAIDO  
LINE'S  
POPULAR  
TRAIN.

TOKYO-HAKATA

### SPECIAL EXPRESS MIZUHO



TOKYO-KUMAMOTO

SAKURA, FUJI,  
HAYABUSA AND  
MIZUHO  
FOLLOWED.  
BY 1965 MORE  
THAN TEN  
SLEEPER TRAINS  
LEFT TOKYO  
STATION EVERY  
DAY.

### SPECIAL EXPRESS SAKURA

THEY WERE CALLED  
"TRAVELING HOTELS"  
AT THE TIME.  
THEY WERE SO  
POPULAR THE  
SLEEPING  
COMPARTMENTS  
WOULD SELL  
OUT IN DAYS.  
HOWEVER, THE BLUE  
TRAIN COULDN'T  
RESIST THE FLOW  
OF TIME.



TOKYO-NAGASAKI-SASEBO



IN THE SHADOW OF  
THE POPULARITY OF  
NEW SLEEPER TRAINS  
LIKE CASSIOPEIA AND  
SUNRISE THEY  
DISAPPEARED  
ONE BY ONE.  
THE SCHEDULE  
ADJUSTMENT OF  
MARCH 1, 2005 TOOK  
THE PIONEERING  
AKAZA OFF THE  
RAILS.



THE ONLY BLUE TRAIN  
CURRENTLY RUNNING  
FROM TOKYO TO KYUSHU  
IS THE FUJI HAYABUSA  
I'M CURRENTLY RIDING...  
HOWEVER, RIDING A  
TRAIN OTHER THAN A  
BULLET TRAIN OUT OF  
TOKYO GIVES ME A  
SPECIAL FEELING AS  
THOUGH I'VE GONE BACK  
IN TIME AND BECOME A  
CHILD AGAIN.





**TOKYO  
STATION  
(NIPPON  
RESTAURANT  
ENTERPRISE)  
KIWAMETSUKI  
BENTO**

**3800 YEN**

**WOW!**

Pumpkin leaf

Boiled konjac

Boiled chestnut

Crab with kiku

Boiled shrimp

Boiled natural seaweed  
with shark fin

Hyuga chicken  
fried with yuzu

Sesame yubeshi

Boiled shimeji

Maitake  
mushroom  
tempura

Kinko Ikoni

Boiled oyster

Squid Ro-yaki

Anago Yawata-maki  
Boiled Setouchi  
tokobushi

Wakasa grilled tilefish

Kamaboko  
(Steamed Fishpaste)

Umeboshi  
(pickled  
plum)

Rice (Miyagi)  
National Rice  
Content Gold  
Medal Winner





THIS IS GREAT!

!!



MY FAVORITE I'M DELIGHTED

OH, SEARED



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!

AND THERE'S SHARK FIN IN HERE!

TSUKU-DANI WITH A HINT OF GARLIC...



THIS MUST BE BOILED SHRIMP CAUGHT ON THE COAST OF KYUSHU.



THIS MUST BE OYSTER!



THE CHEWY'S GOOD.

THE SWEET AND SALTY FLAVORING'S A LITTLE STRONG.

EXQUISITE WORKMANSHIP...



IF I KEEP EATING LIKE THIS, I'LL RUN OUT OF RICE! I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL...

OH, NO!

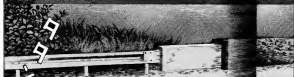






THE ENDLESS  
HORIZON...  
THE CALMING  
RHYTHM OF THE  
RAILS...  
TRAVELLING ON  
TRAIN IS UN-  
BEATABLE!

I HAD FORGOTTEN  
THIS FEELING...  
IT'S ONLY BEEN AN  
HOUR SINCE I LEFT  
TOKYO BUT MY  
HEART IS FEELING  
10 YEARS YOUNG-  
ER...









THIS BEGAN  
MY "EKIBEN  
HITORITABI"  
ACROSS  
JAPAN.

END OF CHAPTER 1

SPECIAL THANKS: SAINT JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY, JAPAN RAIL-  
WAYS NATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, AND HOKKAI  
RESTAURANT ENTERPRISES

CHAPTER 2: YOKOHAMA STATION - SHIUMAI BENTO



THE  
FUJI HAYABUSA  
SLEEPER TRAIN  
I BOARDED LEFT  
TOKYO STATION  
AT 19:03, AND  
NOW WE ALREADY  
PASSED ATAMI.



BOARDING THE  
BLUE TRAIN  
TO KYUSHU,  
MY 'SKIBEN  
HITORITABI'  
THAT I ALWAYS  
DREAMED OF  
FINALLY STARTED.















WHOA!  
THAT  
LOOKS  
SO  
GOOD!!

YOKOHAMA  
STATION  
(KIYOKEN)

SHIUMAI  
BENTO

710 YEN

FRIED CHICKEN

FRIED EGG

JULIENNE  
GINGER

KAMABOKO

KONBU  
SLICES

TUNA TERIYAKI

BOILED BAMBOO SHOOTS

SHIUMAI (FIVE PIECES)

(USING NATURAL  
SCALLOPS FROM  
THE SEA OF  
OKHOTSK)

APRICOTS

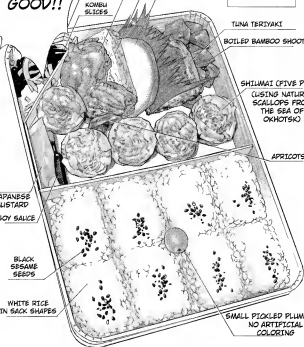
JAPANESE  
MUSTARD

SOY SAUCE

BLACK  
SESAME  
SEEDS

WHITE RICE  
IN SACK SHAPES

SMALL PICKLED PLUM WITH  
NO ARTIFICIAL  
COLORING









IN THOSE DAYS,  
EVERY TRAIN  
HAD AN  
OBLIGATORY  
DINING CAR...

44 YEARS AGO, IN  
THE BIG DIAGRAM  
REVISION OF 1961\*,  
THERE WAS A BIG RISE  
OF EXPRESS TRAINS,  
AND IT WAS DECIDED  
THAT ALL MAJOR CITIES  
THROUGHOUT JAPAN  
GOT BETTER  
CONNECTIONS.

BUT... I'M  
STILL DISAP-  
POINTED THAT  
THERE'S NO  
DINING  
CAR...

AT THAT TIME,  
THE BLUE TRAIN  
THAT WAS ALSO  
CALLED THE  
RIDING HOTEL,  
OF COURSE HAD  
ONE AS WELL.

YEAH,  
THERE  
USED  
TO BE  
ONE...

\*ON THIS BIG REVISION, ALL TRAIN SCHEDULE DIAGRAMS GOT RECRUITED FROM ZERO

AND ON  
THE FUJI,  
EVEN THE  
LOUNGE  
CAR HAS  
DISAP-  
PEARED!

THE  
DINING  
CARS WERE  
CHANGED  
INTO  
LOUNGE  
CARS.

BUT,  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
INFLUENCE  
OF THE  
SHINKANSEN\*,  
THE  
AMOUNT OF  
PASSENGERS  
SEVERELY  
DECREASED.

IT WAS  
THE  
GOLDEN  
AGE OF  
LUXURIOUS  
TRAINS!

\*BULLET TRAIN

OH,  
THIS?

BY THE WAY...  
I'VE SEEN YOU  
TAKING A LOT  
OF PICTURES,  
AND MEMO'S  
SINCE EARLIER...

YOU  
KNOW  
SO MUCH  
ABOUT  
IT,  
MISTER!

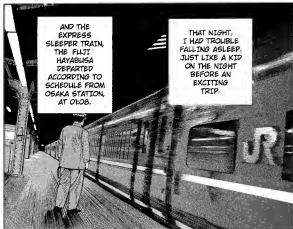
HMM  
?











END OF CHAPTER 2

SPECIAL THANKS: EAST JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY and  
JAPAN RAILWAY INTERNAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER 3:

TOKUYAMA STATION - ANAGO-MESHI  
SHIMONOSEKI STATION - FUKU SUSHI







THE  
TRAIN WILL  
BE ARRIVING AT  
KUDAMATSU AT  
06:48, AND AT  
TOKUYAMA AT  
06:52...



WE HAVE  
BEEN  
RUNNING  
RIGHT  
ACCORDING  
TO  
SCHEDULE.

GOOD  
MORNING!  
WE HOPE YOU  
HAD A  
COMFORTABLE  
NIGHT!



GOOD  
MOR-  
NING!



OH!

ALSO, FOOD  
AND DRINK  
VENDORS  
WILL BE  
BOARDING AT  
TOKUYAMA  
STATION.



WHA!



NOW THAT  
I THINK  
OF IT...  
THE  
TOKU-  
YAMA  
EMBLEM





THE ANAGO IN THE SETO INLAND SEA IS DELICIOUS AND EACH STATION HAS ITS OWN SPECIAL SAUCE FLAVOR, SO THEY ALL TASTE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.



IN FACT, ANAGO BENTO ARE SOLD AT TEN STATIONS ALONG THE SANYO MAIN LINE, SO I CALL IT THE ANAGO-BENTO BATTLE ROUTE.



TOKUYAMA  
STATION  
(TOKUYAMA  
STATION  
BENTO)

ANAGO-MESHI

920 YEN

ANAGO KABAYAKI

RICE COOKED  
WITH ANAGO BROTH

TA-  
DAH  
!!

WHOA  
!!

SECRET  
SAUCE

PICKLED  
VEGETABLES

ANAGO  
KABAYAKI  
SLICES

KINSHI  
EGGS

UHH...  
I  
NEED  
TO  
ENDU-  
RE  
THIS...

OH...  
NOW IT  
LOOKS  
EVEN  
BETTER!!

WHAA,  
THAT  
LOOKS  
GOOD!

WHAA!  
I CAN'T  
EVEN SEE  
THE RICE!

HERE  
I  
GO...

DEEP  
DEEP

THIS IS  
THE  
SAUCE...







AH!!



YUKO...  
FORGIVE  
ME!



I GUESS  
I DON'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE, DO  
I...



YEAH  
...

IT'S  
REALLY  
MOREISH,  
ISN'T IT?



I'M SO  
EMBARRASSED  
IT'S HARD  
TO TELL  
THE  
TASTE!

Y-  
YEAH,  
IT'S  
GOOD!

HOW  
IS  
IT?



YEAH!  
IT'S SO  
SPACIOUS  
HERE  
AFTER  
ALL!

THE  
B-BLINDS  
HAVE TURNED  
INTO OUR  
OWN LITTLE  
DINING  
CAR,  
IT SEEMS  
LIKE...



OH, IS  
THIS SHIN-  
YAMAGUCHI  
STATION?  
UNTIL RECENTLY,  
IT WAS CALLED  
OGORI STATION.



BY THE  
WAY, NANA,  
WHICH CAR  
ARE YOU  
RIDING IN?

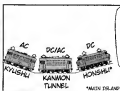


IT  
WAS  
SO  
TASTY!

AH,  
THAT  
WAS  
GOOD!







AND AFTERWARD,  
AT KYUSHU'S FIRST  
STOP AT MOJI STATION,  
IT WILL BE  
INTERCHANGED AGAIN  
BY A SPECIALIZED  
ALTERNATING  
CURRENT ONE.



THE IDEA FOR CONNECTING  
SHIMONOSEKI AND MOJI,  
IN OTHER WORDS,  
CONNECTING HONSHU AND  
KYUSHU WITH AN UNDERSEA  
TUNNEL, WAS THERE ALREADY  
IN THE MEIJI ERA.  
IT ONLY STARTED TAKING  
SHAPE IN 1919, AND IT TOOK  
UNTIL 1936 FOR  
CONSTRUCTION TO  
BEGIN.

IT TOOK SIX YEARS  
FOR THE ALL OF THE  
NATIONAL RAILWAY STAFF  
TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK,  
BUT IN 1942, THE FIRST JAPANESE  
RAILWAY TUNNEL  
ON THE BOTTOM OF THE  
SEA WAS READY FOR USE.  
FROM THAT POINT ON, FROM  
NOVEMBER 1942, THE FUJI  
EXPRESS THAT USED TO RUN  
FROM TOKYO TO SHIMONOSEKI,  
RAN ALL THE WAY TO NAGASAKI.



AS A SIDENOTE,  
UP TO THAT POINT,  
TRAIN PASSENGERS  
WHO WANTED TO GO  
TO KYUSHU, HAD TO  
USE THE FERRY  
RUNNING BETWEEN  
SHIMONOSEKI AND  
MOJI (AT PRESENT  
TIME MOJIKO)  
OPERATED BY  
THE NATIONAL  
RAILWAY.



NOTES: THE USUAL WORD FOR BLOWFISH IS FUDU. FUKU MEANS LUCK.









FUGU  
MEAT...



IT'S THE  
FIRST TIME  
I'VE EATEN  
FRIED  
FUGU, BUT  
IT'S SO  
GOOD!

HAAM  
!



AMUNCH!  
163



WHA,  
SO MANY  
KINDS OF  
FUGU!!



FINELY  
CRUMBLED  
FUGU!



FUGU  
SKIN!



THIS  
EKIBEN  
IS EVEN  
BETTER  
THAN THE  
RUMORS  
SAY!

SHIMO-  
NOSKE  
HONORS  
ITS  
NAME!



YOU  
COULD  
EVEN  
HAVE  
THIS  
WITH A  
BEER!

WITH THIS,  
I COULD  
EAT BOWLS  
AND BOWLS  
OF RICE!



THESE  
SEA  
URCHIN  
EGGS ARE  
SO GOOD  
TOO!



WE WILL  
NOW BE  
ENTERING  
KANMON  
TUNNEL, AND  
THEN  
KYUSHU.





WE'RE  
GOING  
INTO THE  
TUNNEL  
NOW!

AH...  
AT  
LAST...

LIKE THAT,  
THE EXPRESS  
SLEEPER TRAIN  
FUJI HAYABUSA  
CARRYING THE TWO  
OF US, ENTERED  
KANMON TUNNEL,  
DESTINED FOR  
KYUSHU.



取材協力 JR東日本・日本鉄道博物館 高橋 忠生  
(株)徳山駅舎 吉田 正樹 井上 浩一

END OF CHAPTER 3

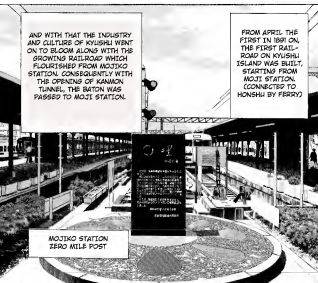
SPECIAL THANKS TO: JAPAN RAILWAY MUSEUM, KYOTO  
STATION, TOKYO, AND THE KYOTO RAILWAY MUSEUM, KYOTO  
STATION, KYOTO. AND THE KYOTO RAILWAY MUSEUM, KYOTO  
STATION, KYOTO.

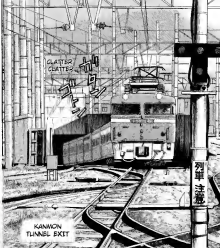
CHAPTER 4: MOJI STATION - MENTAICO BENTO





BAM



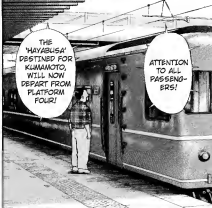














SHE WAS A  
CLUTE ONE.

AHH...  
THERE  
SHE  
WENT.

THERE AREN'T  
ANY ON THE  
PLATFORMS.  
YOU GOTTA  
GO OUTSIDE  
THE TICKET  
GATES TO  
GET ANY.

HLJH  
?

EXCUSE  
ME!  
DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE THEY  
SELL BENTO  
AROUND  
HERE?

OH,  
RIGHT!  
I STILL  
HAVE TO  
BUY THE  
MOJI  
BKIBEN!

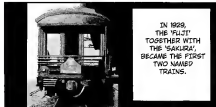


HABA  
...





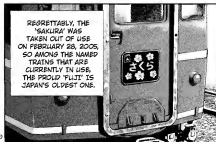
THE KYUSHU RAILWAYS USE ALTERNATING CURRENT, SO A RED AC-SPECIALIZED LOCOMOTIVE IS PUT INTO PLACE.



IN 1929, THE 'FUJI' TOGETHER WITH THE 'SAKURA', BECAME THE FIRST TWO NAMED TRAINS.



SINCE THE HAYABUSA WAS DEATTACHED, THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN ONLY SHOWS THE 'FUJI' MARK.



REGRETTABLY, THE 'SAKURA' WAS TAKEN OUT OF USE ON FEBRUARY 28, 2005, SO AMONG THE NAMED TRAINS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN USE, THE PROUD 'FUJI' IS JAPAN'S OLDEST ONE.



NOTE: IN BETWEEN THE FIRST RELEASE OF THIS MANGA, AND TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH, THE FUJI WAS ALSO TAKEN OUT OF USE. (MARCH 2009)



**WHOA  
!!**

MOJI STATION  
OXITACOLUSYLE KIDANTOS

## MENTAIKO BENTO

1050 YEN

## BOILER SHUTTLE

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

BOILED  
RABBIT MEAT

CAMPBELL CHESTNUT

### SMALL FRIED SARDINES IN RICE PASTE

**GREEN LEAF  
MUSTARD**

MENTAICO  
MIXED IN WITH  
SCRAMBLED EGGS

## MENTALING TEMPURA

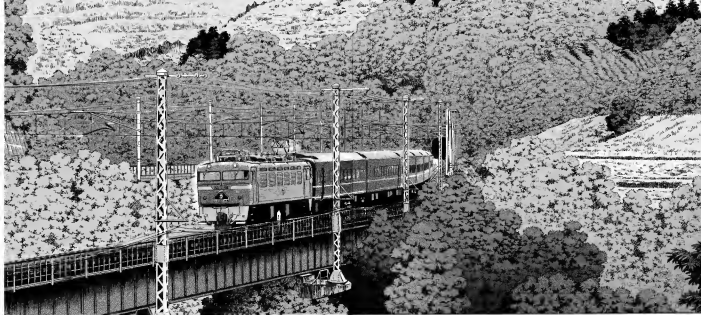
WHITE FISH











81



80



OH! WE'VE  
ALMOST  
REACHED  
THE TERMIN-  
NAL!



HUH...  
WHEN  
DID  
I FALL  
ASLEEP?



HM...



WE'RE AT  
THE  
TERMINAL!  
I REACHED  
OITA!!



YUJI-  
HAYABUSA,  
THE BLUE  
TRAIN'S  
RIDE HAS  
FINALLY COME  
TO AN END.

IT FELT REALLY  
LONG, AND  
REALLY SHORT  
AT THE SAME  
TIME.



770.9 MILES  
FROM TOKYO,  
TRAVELLED IN  
17 HOURS AND  
14 MINUTES.

CHAPTER 5: OITA STATION - BUNGO SABA ZUSHI









NOTE: SABA = MACKEREL





JR = JAPAN RAILWAYS





BUT IN 1964, WHEN THE TOKAIDO SHINKANSEN LINE WAS OPENED, THE 161-SERIES-TRAINS THAT USED TO RUN BETWEEN TOKYO AND OSAKA WERENT NEEDED ANYMORE, SO THEY GOT TRANSFERRED TO SERVE ON THE SANYO MAIN LINE. FROM THAT POINT ON, THEY RAN BETWEEN SHIN-OSAKA AND HAKATA, UNDER THE NAMES 'TSUBAME' AND 'HATO'.



YES, THE SERIES BEFORE THAT WAS THE 161 KODAMA SERIES, RUNNING BETWEEN TOKYO AND OSAKA. (SHOWN IN THE LOWER LEFT)

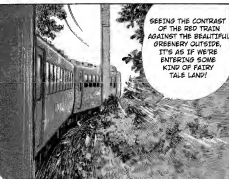
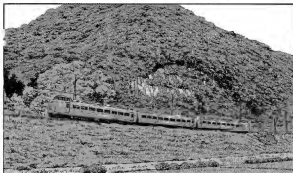
OH, RIGHT! THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 485 SERIES USED TO BE A GROUND-BREAKING EVENT IN JAPANESE RAILWAY HISTORY!



SO AFTER THAT, IN 1988, THE 481 SERIES (THEN FOLLOWED BY THE 485 SERIES) WAS THE FIRST TRAIN MADE COMPATIBLE WITH BOTH DIRECT AND ALTERNATING CURRENT, MAKING IT ABLE TO RUN THROUGH KYUSHU JUST LIKE THAT.

BUT BECAUSE THE 161 SERIES USE DIRECT CURRENT, AND THE KYUSHU RAILWAYS USE ALTERNATING CURRENT, FROM SHIMONOSEKI ON A LOCOMOTIVE IS CONNECTED TO PULL THE TRAIN TO HAKATA.







SPK: STOMACH GROWLING



OITA STATION  
(UMENOYA)

BUNGO-SABA  
ZUSHI

1300 YEN

PERFECTLY  
GLAZED COLOR

THE SUSHI RICE  
FITS PERFECTLY  
UNDER THE FISH

WHOA,  
HOW  
APPEAL-  
ING!!





HOW DO  
YOU ACQUIRE  
SUCH A TASTE...  
IS IT THE TYPE  
OF VINEGAR?



THE  
COMBINATION  
OF THE  
KOMBU FLAVOR  
AND THE SUSHI  
VINEGAR  
CREATES  
A UNIQUE  
TASTE.



OR  
IS IT  
BECAUSE  
IT'S A  
MACKEREL  
FROM THE  
BLINGO  
CHANNEL.



BECAUSE OF THAT,  
THE MACKEREL THAT  
GROW UP IN THESE  
WATERS DEVELOP  
A HIGH QUALITY  
MUSCLE AND FAT,  
AND THIS IS  
WHAT MAKES  
THEM SO TASTY.



IN BETWEEN THE SAGANOSEKI  
PENINSULA THAT LIES NEAR  
TO OITA CITY, AND  
SAGAMISAKI OF EHIME  
PREFECTURE,  
LIES THE HOKUO STRAIT.

IT'S ALSO CALLED THE  
"HAYASHI NO SETO" BECAUSE  
THE TIDAL CURRENT IS  
SO VIOLENT.

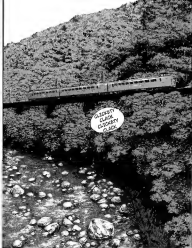
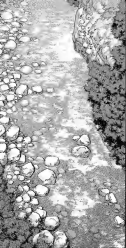


\* HOKUO NO SETO MEANS FAST STRAIT IN JAPANESE.









MAYBE THE BEER  
MIGHT HAVE HELPED,  
BUT BEFORE I KNEW  
I WAS LULLED TO  
SLEEP BY THE GENTLE  
RHYTHM OF THE TRAIN.





DOZING OFF,  
IN A TRAIN  
STANDING  
STILL IN THE  
MIDDLE OF AN  
EMPTY  
STATION...  
A MOMENT  
OF SUPREME  
BLISS...



OH, BECAUSE  
THE TRAINS ARE  
USING A  
SINGLE TRACK  
HERE, TRAINS  
HAVE TO WAIT  
A WHILE AT  
THE STATION  
UNTIL THE  
OPPOSING  
TRAIN PASSES.



WE'LL  
SOON BE  
IN  
NOBE-  
OKA...



LITTLE DID I KNOW,  
THAT AT NOBEOKA,  
A TOROKKO  
TRAIN AWAITED  
ME. THAT WOULD  
TAKE ME FROM  
THERE TO THE  
MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE!

END OF CHAPTER 6

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MT MIKABA-  
BAKI  
AMAZING  
VIEW  
NUMBER  
ONE.



YOU'RE  
NOT FROM  
AROUND,  
ARE YA?



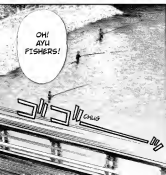
HUH...  
WAS  
THAT  
HERE...



IT'S MT  
MIKABAKI, THE  
LEGENDARY MOUNTAIN  
WHERE THEY SAY  
YAMATO TAKERU BEAT  
KAWAKAMI TAKERU.



OH!  
AYU  
FISHERS!



HMM?  
FROM  
TOKYO?  
THAT'S  
QUITE A  
DISTANCE.



YOU'RE  
RIGHT.  
I'M  
FROM  
TOKYO.













NOBEOKA  
STATION  
(TAKAHAMA)

AYU SUSHI

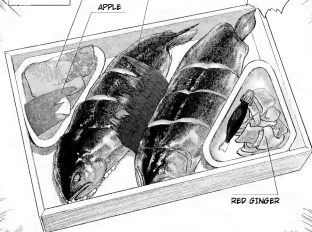
1200 YEN

TANGERINE

APPLE

BOKASE RIVER AYU

WHOA!  
THE FISH  
HAS KEPT  
ITS  
ORIGINAL  
SHAPE!



RED GINGER



LET'S  
ENJOY  
THIS!



LET'S  
PUT  
SOME  
SOY  
SAUCE  
ON  
IT...



I CAN  
SMELL THE  
SWEET  
FRAGRANCE  
OF AYU AND  
VINEGAR.









WHAA-  
AA-  
AAA!!

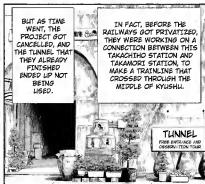
SERVICE  
STOP,  
345 FEET  
ABOVE THE  
RIVER.  
AMAZING  
VIEW  
NUMBER  
FIVE.

COME  
ON, START  
MOVING  
AGAIN!

I'M  
SCA-  
RED!

THIS  
VIEW IS  
A LITTLE  
BIT TOO  
AMAZING  
FOR ME!

ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT  
THERE  
MISTER?!









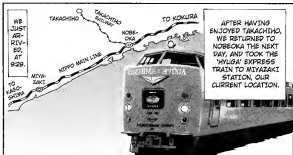
END OF CHAPTER 6

SPECIAL THANKS TO KACHIRO RAILWAY, TAKAHARA-TOWN KANNO-KYOKAI, AND TAKAYAMA

# CHAPTER

7:

MIYAZAKI STATION - SHIITAKE RICE  
MIYAKONOJO STATION - KASHIWA RICE  
KAGOSHIMA CHUO STATION - TONKOTSU BENTO





IT TOOK  
A WHILE  
TO BUY  
THE  
EKI-  
BEN!

WHAA...  
JUST ON  
TIME!



THE 'KIRI-  
SHIMA',  
DESTINED  
FOR  
KAGOSHIMA  
CHUO  
STATION,  
DEPARTING  
AT 09:33.

QUICK,  
QUICK!!



HAHAHA...  
MAYBE I  
SHOULD GO  
ON A DIET.



HEHE,  
THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
I'M  
YOUNG!!

BY  
THE WAY,  
YOU RUN  
PRETTY  
FAST,  
NANA.



REALLY?  
YAY!!

TODAY  
WE'RE  
GOING TO  
HAVE ALL  
KINDS OF  
BENTO!



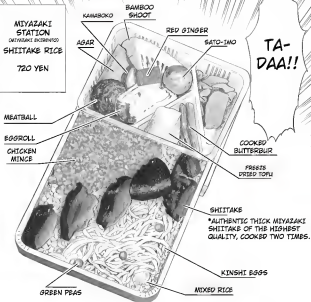
OOPS...  
NO  
DIET  
THEN I  
GUESS.



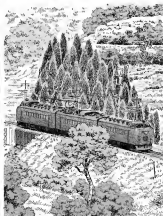
CAN WE  
HAVE OUR  
EKIBEN  
NOW? I'M  
SUPER  
HUNGRY  
SINCE WE  
SKIPPED  
BREAK-  
FAST.



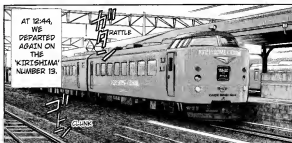
MIYAZAKI  
STATION  
OATHSUKI BUDENPOO  
SHIITAKE RICE  
720 YEN











MIYAKONOJO  
STATION  
(SETOYAMA  
BENTO)

KASHIWA RICE

720 YEN

SATSUMA-AGE

COOKED  
BEANS

PINEAPPLE

TA-  
DAA  
!!

SHREDDED  
SEAWEED

KINSHI EGGS

UMEBOSHI

RICE

(COOKED IN  
CHICKEN BROTH)

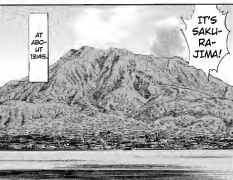
PICKLED  
BURDOCK

CHICKEN MEAT

(BREAST MEAT CUT IN THIN  
SLICES AND COOKED)

\*"KASHIWA" WAS ORIGINALLY A NICKNAME FOR A  
BROWN CHICKEN IN JAPAN, BUT IN KYUSHU IT'S  
NOW GENERALLY USED FOR ALL CHICKEN MEAT.







WHEN I  
CAME HERE  
LAST TIME,  
THIS STATION  
WAS STILL  
CALLED  
NISHI KA-  
GOSHIMA  
STATION.



EH?  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING  
TO SHOW  
ME?!



WE STILL HAVE  
SOME TIME  
BEFORE THE  
NEXT TRAIN, SO  
HOW ABOUT  
I SHOW YOU  
SOMETHING  
NICE!



I HAVE  
AN  
IDEA!



THANK YOU  
FOR USING  
OUR  
SERVICES!



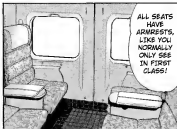
IT'S THE  
NEWEST  
KYUSHU  
SHINKANSEN  
SINCE LAST  
YEAR, THE  
"TSUBAME"!

TA-  
DAA!



WOW  
!!

AND THE  
ARMRESTS  
ARE MADE  
FROM  
CAMPHOR  
AND THE  
COVER  
SHEETS ARE  
REAL  
NISHIKIYAMA  
WEAVING!



ALL SEATS  
HAVE  
ARMRESTS,  
LIKE YOU  
NORMALLY  
ONLY SEE  
IN FIRST  
CLASS!

BECAUSE AT THAT TIME THE TSUBAME HAD A LIGHT GREEN COLOR, IT WAS ALSO NICK-NAMED THE GREEN GENERAL.

THE SECOND GENERATION 'TSUBAME' WAS BORN IN 1950. IT WAS FIRST PULLED BY A TYPE 62 STEAM LOCOMOTIVE, BUT BECAUSE IN 1956 THE WHOLE TOKAIDO LINE GOT MADE ELECTRIC, THE LOCOMOTIVE GOT CHANGED FOR AN ELECTRIC ONE.

THE 'TSUBAME' EXPRESS HAS A LONG HISTORY, THAT GOES BACK TO 1930, THE YEAR AFTER THE 'FUJI' WAS BORN.

THE 'TSUBAME' WAS FIRST INTRODUCED AS A 'SUPEREXPRESS', AS IT COULD DO THE TOKYO-OSAKA TRIP 45 MINUTES FASTER THAN THE FUJI COULD!

\*TSUBAME MEANS SHALLOW



WHEN IN 1975 THE SHINKANSEN GOT INTRODUCED TO THE SANYO LINE AS WELL, THE TSUBAME WAS TAKEN OUT OF BUSINESS.



THE THIRD GENERATION STARTED OFF IN 1980, AND BECAME A TYPE 81 TRAIN. IT GOT A FULL MODEL CHANGE, BECAUSE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SHINKANSEN ON THE TOKAIDO LINE IN 1984, IT GOT TRANSFERRED TO THE SANYO MAIN LINE.

THEN FINALLY IN 2004, THE NEW KYUSHU SHINKANSEN THAT GOT INSTALLED BETWEEN SHINYATSUBUSHIRO AND KAGOSHIMA ONNO STATION BECAME THE NEWEST 'TSUBAME'. THE BRAND NEW TYPE 800 TRAIN HAS A TOP SPEED OF 160 MPH AND SHORTENED THE TIME OF THE 79 MILES TRIP FROM 2 HOURS AND 10 MINUTES A WHOLE ONE HOUR AND 35 MINUTES, TO AS LITTLE AS 34 MINUTES.

JR KYUSHU CREATED THE FOURTH GENERATION OF THE TSUBAME IN 1992, WITH A LOT OF PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE, AS A BRAND NEW TYPE 787 TRAIN. BECAUSE 'TSUBAME' WAS A TRADITIONAL NICKNAME OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS DAYS, JR KYUSHU HAD TO ASK PERMISSION TO EVERY OTHER JR REGION IN ORDER TO BE ALLOWED TO USE THIS NAME.







I ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
HAVE AN  
EKISEN  
HERE,  
JUST  
ONCE.



I  
NEVER  
HEARD  
OF  
THIS  
PLACE!  
IT  
FEELS  
GREAT!



ALL  
RIGHT...  
THE EKISEN  
WE'RE GOING  
TO HAVE IN  
THE MIDDLE  
OF THIS  
MAGNIFICENT  
PLACE IS...



I'VE  
BEEN  
WAIT-  
ING  
FOR  
THIS!!

WELL THEN,  
LET'S HAVE  
NUMBER  
THREE OF  
TODAY  
THEN!

KAGOSHIMA  
CHUO  
STATION  
(WATANABE)

TONKOTSU  
BENTO

900 YEN

RICE WITH  
MIXED-IN  
SHIITAKE.

KIBINAGO  
NANBAN

TANGERINE

PICKLED  
VEGETABLES

THIS  
!

PICKLED  
RADISH

TONKOTSU

(KAGOSHIMA PORK RIBS BOILED FOR OVER  
FIVE HOURS IN SHOCHU, MISO AND BLACK SUGAR.)

NOTE: TONKOTSU IS A TRADITIONAL SATSUMA (OLD NAME FOR SOUTH KYUSHU) DISH.  
IT ORIGINALLY CAME FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF CHINA, THROUGH THE RYUKYU REGION  
INTO JAPAN, AND BECAME LIKE THAT ONE OF THE SPECIALTIES OF THE EARLY UNREFINED SATSUMA.



OKAY,  
LET'S  
START  
WITH  
THE  
TON-  
KOTSU  
...



OH...  
IT  
SMELLS  
SO  
GOOD!

WHAA! IT  
LOOKS  
AWESOME!





NANKOTSU: CARTILAGE FISH





CHAPTER 8: KAREIGAWA STATION  
KAREI RIVER OF THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR JOURNEY STORY



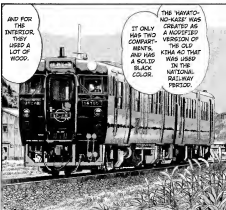
AFTER COMING  
BACK FROM  
NISHI-OYAMA  
STATION, THE  
MOST SOUTHERN  
JR STATION IN  
JAPAN, WE  
FINALLY DEPARTED  
FROM KASOSHIMA,  
TOWARDS  
KUMAMOTO!



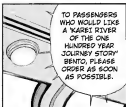




YEAH



IN 1977, THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS CREATED THE KIHA 140 AND 147. THEY WERE TRAINS WITH A DIESEL ENGINE, SUITED FOR LOCAL SERVICE. IN CONTRAST TO THE KIHA 40 SERIES, THEIR HORSEPOWER GOT IMPROVED FROM 220 TO 380. THROUGH THIS UPGRADE, THE KIHA 40 WITH A DRIVER ROOM ON BOTH SIDES GOT RENAMED 140, AND THE KIHA 47 WITH A DRIVER ROOM ON ONLY ONE SIDE GOT RENAMED 147. THE INTERIOR GOT A COMPLETE REWORK AS WELL, WITH FLOORS MADE OF OAKWOOD, WALLS MADE OF CEDARWOOD, AND SEATS MADE OF CHERRY WOOD. IT'S UNIQUE FOR JR KYUSHU TO USE THIS TYPE AS AN EXPRESS TRAIN. BECAUSE OF THE FLUCTUATION OF PASSENGER NUMBERS HOWEVER, IT WAS MADE SO IT COULD BE CONTROLLED USING ONLY A SINGLE SIDE.













YEAH,  
IT'S  
GOOD!!



LET'S  
START  
WITH  
THE  
RICE...



YOU  
SHOULD  
TRY IT!



WHAT  
IS  
THIS?



ISN'T  
IT?

THE MIXING  
RATIO WITH  
SHIITAKES  
AND  
BAMBOO  
SHOOTS  
IS PER-  
FECT!



RIG-  
HT?

WOW!!  
SO  
TASTY!!



...



IT HAS  
AN  
EXCEL-  
LENT  
AFTER-  
TASTE!

IT  
PRODUCES  
A NICE  
SENSATION  
IN THE  
MOUTH  
AND...



IT'S DEEP-  
FRIED  
USING  
ONLY THE  
JUICE OF  
LEAF  
MUSTARD.

IT'S RED  
SATSUMA  
TEMPURA  
CALLED  
GANE.



WHAT'S  
THIS  
FRIED  
THING  
...?



WHOA,  
THAT'S  
SOME  
GOOD  
VINE-  
GAR!

WHITE  
RADISH  
AND  
CARROT.



THIS IS  
THE  
VINEGAR...



YEARS  
AGO,  
CRO-  
QUET-  
TES USED  
TO BE  
THIS  
WAY...

KAREI-  
GAWA  
CRO-  
QUET-  
TES.



THE  
POTATO  
TASTE  
IS  
REALLY  
STRONG!

IT'S  
A  
CRO-  
QUET-  
TE!



THE MISO  
TASTES SO  
GOOD! YOU  
REALLY TASTE  
IT'S  
HANDMADE!!

YUMMM  
...!!



IT'S  
PREPARED  
WITH  
AOKIPLANT  
AND  
PUMPKIN.

THIS  
BAMPLANT  
AND  
PUMPKIN  
COATED  
WITH MISO



HAHA...  
I  
WONDER  
...

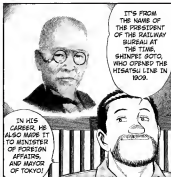


WHAT  
IS  
THIS  
...



I FEEL  
LIKE  
HAVING  
A DRINK!









DANG  
...!

HOW  
BEAU-  
TI-  
FUL!!

WOW  
!!



NOW, TRY  
TO READ WHAT'S  
WRITTEN AT THE  
HEAD OF THE  
TUNNEL  
ENTRANCE.

BH!?



IT'S 1.3  
MILES, AND  
WITH THAT  
THE LONGEST  
TUNNEL ON  
THE HISATSU  
LINE.

THE NEXT  
TUNNEL  
WE'RE  
PASSING  
THROUGH  
IS YATAKE  
MOUNTAIN  
TUNNEL  
MOUT.



BH?

NANA,  
COME  
HERE FOR  
A SECOND.



OH...  
A  
SERVICE  
STOP?



YOU  
CAN  
LOOK SO  
FAR FROM  
HERE!

IT  
DOESN'T  
SEEM  
LIKE  
JAPAN!



I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
THERE  
WAS A  
PLACE  
LIKE  
THIS!



I'M GET-  
TING  
EMO-  
TIONAL  
FROM  
ALL  
THIS!





END OF CHAPTER 8

SPECIAL THANKS: KHUONG JAPAN RAILWAYS AND JAPAN RAILWAY  
EXTERNAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER 9  
HITOYOSHI STATION - KURI RICE  
SHIN-YATSUSHIRO STATION - AYUHASANDAI





HAHA,  
I WON-  
DER...



A LOOP?  
A  
SWITCH-  
BACK?



WE'LL BE  
CONTINUING OUR  
WAY TOWARDS  
SOMETHING THAT  
IS VERY RARE  
THROUGHOUT THE  
WHOLE OF JAPAN:  
A LOOP FOLLOWED  
BY A SWITCHBACK  
TOWARDS OKOBA  
STATION!



WE  
STEADY-  
LY...



YOU'RE  
RIGHT!



IT'S A  
SPECIAL  
TYPE OF  
RAILWAY  
CREATED  
FOR  
TRAINS  
TO GO  
UP A  
STEEP  
SLOPE!





HURRY,  
HURRY!

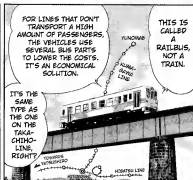
TO ALL  
PASSENGERS WHO  
ARE TRANSFERRING  
TO THE  
'ACROSS-KYUSHU-  
EXPRESS' NO.8  
FROM 13:05,  
DESTINED FOR BEPPU,  
PLEASE HEAD TO  
PLATFORM ONE  
USING THE  
PASSENGER  
BRIDGE.

12:57  
ARRIVAL  
AT HITO-  
YOSHI  
STATION.



KURE-  
CHEST-  
KIT

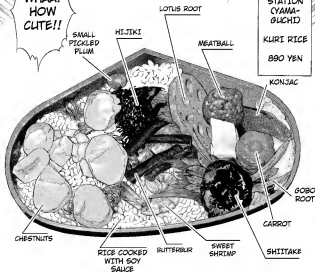




WHAA!  
HOW  
CUTE!!

HITYOYOSHI  
STATION  
CYAMA-  
BUCHID

KURI RICE  
890 YEN



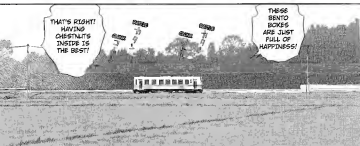
HMM!  
THEY'RE NOT  
SOBBY AT  
ALL!  
THEY'RE  
GOOD!

HERE  
I  
GO!

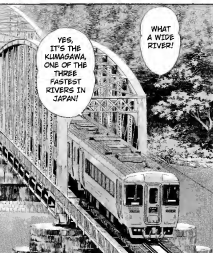
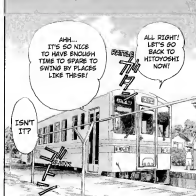
THE STATION WE  
PASSED EARLIER,  
OKORO,  
IS FAMOUS  
FOR ITS  
CHESTNUTS.

THERE'S  
SO MANY  
CHESTNUTS  
IN  
THERE!











NOTE: LEGAL DRINKING AGE IN JAPAN IS 20 YEARS OLD.





OH!



OH,  
YEAH!  
I'VE GOT  
THESE  
SNACKS!



TRY THE  
LOCAL  
BENTO'S  
AND  
DRINKS,  
RIGHT?

COMING  
TO A  
PLACE  
LIKE  
THIS,  
IT'S SO  
NICE  
TO...



SO  
BEAU-  
TI-  
FUL!

WHEN DID  
WE START  
RIDING ON  
THE RIVER  
BANK?



SO  
MANY NICE  
PLACES  
EVERY-  
WHERE...



WHERE  
HERE,  
IT'S  
RATHER  
A RIVER  
TRAIN.

BUT IN  
THE PART  
BETWEEN  
YOSHIMATSU  
AND HITO-  
YOSHE, YOU  
CAN CALL IT  
A MOUNTAIN  
TRAIN.

THIS  
BEAUTIFUL  
ROUTE  
IS STILL  
THE SAME  
HISATSU  
LINE.





17:34  
DEPARTURE  
USING THE  
'RELAY  
TSUBAME'  
EXPRESS  
NO.18.

THIS IS THE  
ONLY STATION  
IN JAPAN  
WHERE THE  
SHINKANSEN  
USERS THE  
SAME PLATFORMS  
AS THE OTHER  
TRAINS!

WOW!



YAY!

HOW  
ABOUT  
WE HAVE  
OUR  
NUMBER  
ONE!

THE SUN  
HAS  
STARTED  
SETTING  
ALREADY.



SHIN-  
YATSUSHIRO  
STATION  
CHINAMI  
NO KAZE)

AYUHASANDAI

1050 YEN

RICE COOKED  
WITH  
JAPANESE-STYLE  
AYU BROTH

LOTUS ROOT

EGG  
ROLL

SHIITAKE

SHIMAJI  
MUSHROOMS

GINGER

KONJAC

CARROT

TANINAKA GINGER

AYU BOILED IN  
SWEETENED SAUCE

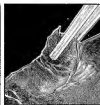
WOW!



THIS  
BENTO BOX  
INTRODUCED  
AT THE SAME  
TIME AS THE  
OPENING OF  
THE NEW  
SHINKANSEN,  
IN MARCH  
2004.



WOW!!  
IT'S A WHOLE  
SWEET AYU  
FISH!!

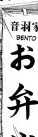






CHAPTER 10: KUMAMOTO STATION - TONOSAMA BENTO  
TOSU STATION - SHAMAI BENTO





NOTE: COMMON MISTAKE OF THE JAPANESE CHARACTER THAT READS AS MISUMI IN ROMANJI



NOTE: TONOSAMA MEANS FEUDAL LORD





IT'S MORIHIRO HOSOKAWA, WHO EIGHTEEN GENERATIONS LATER BECAME JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER WHO IS BEING CELEBRATED BY THIS BENTO!

AFTER THAT, TADATOSHI HOSOKAWA BECAME THE CASTLE LORD, AND FROM THEN ON, THE HOSOKAWA REIGNED FOR MANY MANY YEARS.

IT'S TRUE THAT KIYOMASA KATO BUILT KUMAMOTO CASTLE, BUT THE KATO REIGN LASTED ONLY TWO GENERATIONS, UNTIL HIS SON TADAHIRO!



HUH...? A PERSON WHO'S STILL ALIVE!?



ALLOW ME TO OPEN AND RELISH THIS DELIGHTFUL FISH!



I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YES, HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER AS THE HEAD OF THE 'NEW PARTY', BUT HIS CABINET RESIGNED AFTER ONLY EIGHT MONTHS.



I'M SO EXCITED!

NOW I REALLY EXPECT A LOT FROM IT!!



SO, THIS IS THE FOOD THAT THE LORD OF HIGO SO HIGHLY PRAISED AS THE TRADITIONAL FOOD OF HIS HOMETOWN KUMAMOTO!

KUMAMOTO  
STATION  
(OTOWA  
CLAND)

TONOSAMA  
BENTO

1050 YEN

SATO-IMO RAGU  
AND COATED IN MISO

YAKOSHITU WITH MISO

SWEET POTATO BOILED  
IN SWEET SAUCE

MUSTARD  
LOTUS ROOT

OCTOPUS PECKLED  
IN SWEET-ACID SAUCE

ROLLED  
OMELET

GINGER

FRIED  
HORSEMEAT  
CUT UP WITH  
SOBO  
ROOT

WHOOA  
!!

GRILLED  
FISH

SHRIMP

PICKLED  
LEAF MUSTARD

SHIITAKE

KONJAC

ORANGE

HITOMOJI  
GURUSHIRU

UH...  
SPICY...  
BUT  
YUMMY...

BON  
APPE-  
TIT!

LET'S  
START  
WITH  
THE  
MUSTARD  
LOTUS  
ROOT!

THIS  
ONE IS  
SO  
ELEGANT!

HOW  
BEAUTI-  
FUL!



WHAT'S THIS?



HMM! THE BALANCE OF SWEET AND SOUR IS EXACTLY RIGHT!

MUNCH MUNCH



THIS OCTOPUS IS SO GUTS!



IT ALSO MAKES IT LOOK MORE GORGEOUS WHEN THE SHRIMP'S HEAD IS STILL ATTACHED.



MUNCH MUNCH



IT'S MADE BY TWISTING WELSH ONION AROUND STARTING FROM THE ROOT, PREPARED WITH VINEGAR MISO.



EH? GURU-GURU?



IT'S CALLED HITO-MOJIE SURU-SURU!

NOTE: HITOROJIE = WELSH ONION, GURUGURU = GRINDING FOR TURNING ROUND AND ROUND



BUT, AS EXPECTED, EVERY SINGLE ITEM IS REALLY DONE VERY PROPERLY!



CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN!

THAT'LL PUT HAIR ON YOUR CHEST!!

THERE'S HORSE MEAT IN HERE TOO!



WHAT A NICE HARMONY BETWEEN THE ONION AND THE VINEGAR MISO!!

...!! TASTES SO GOOD!!



BOTTLE OF SWEET SAUCE

THANK YOU, MY LORD!!



MAY WE BE SATISFIED!

THIS BENTO REALLY IS TRUE TO THE NAME "HITOROJIE". I'M SATISFIED WITH ITS VARIETY OF FLAVORS.



DON'T YOU THINK, NANA?

THIS CERTAINLY IS A HIGHER GRADE OF MAMORUCHI BENTO.

\*MAMORUCHI BENTO CONSIST OF AGAR, FISH AND OTHER INGREDIENTS





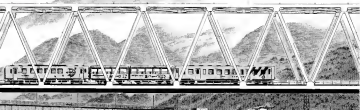




NOTE: WAKANE-ZAKE IS THE NAME FOR THE ACT OF DRINKING ZAKE FROM A NAKED WOMAN'S BODY.



WOW!!  
IT'S THE  
FUGEN-  
DAKE!!



SIX YEARS AFTER  
THE INCIDENT,  
THE RAILROAD  
WAS FINALLY  
RESTORED,  
AND THAT'S THE  
RAIL WE'RE NOW  
RIDING ON.

I  
SEE.



ON NOVEMBER THE  
17TH, 1980, THE  
FUGENDAKE BECAME  
ACTIVE AGAIN AFTER  
188 YEARS OF INACTIVITY.  
THE NEXT YEAR, IN 1981,  
IT GENERATED A PYRO-  
CLASTIC FLOW THAT  
ENGULFED MANY  
PEOPLE'S HOMES.  
IT DESTROYED PARTS OF  
THE SHIMABARA RAILROAD  
AS WELL.

WHOA...  
IT'S EVEN  
PUFFING  
SMOKE  
RIGHT  
NOW!





HAHA,  
THAT'S JUST  
THE STYLE OF  
THE STATION  
BUILDINGS.

WOW!  
THE STATION  
IS INSIDE  
A CASTLE!

12:08  
ARRIVAL  
AT  
SHIMA-  
BARA  
STATION.



I  
SEE.

THE AUTHOR  
OF THE  
SONG WAS  
KOHBI  
MEYA-  
ZAKI.



GODMYA  
SHIMA-  
BARA  
NO...

OH!  
I'VE  
HEARD  
THAT  
BE-  
FORE!

IT'S  
THE  
EMBODI-  
MENT  
OF  
KOMORI-  
UTA.



HOW  
ABOUT  
THIS  
BRONZE  
STATUE  
?

NOTE: KOMORUTA MEANS LITERALLY CHILD PROTECTION SONG, AND IS SOMETHING LIKE A LULLABY.



HAW.

HE BECAME  
THE MODEL  
FOR THE TV  
SERIES  
'THE BLIND  
DIRECTOR'



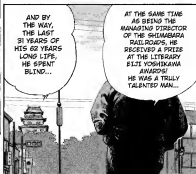
EH?  
A PERSON  
FROM THE  
RAILROAD  
WROTE  
THIS  
SONG...?

HE WAS  
ALSO AN  
EXECUTIVE  
FOR  
THE SHIMA-  
BARA RAIL-  
ROAD.



COME  
WITH  
ME...

?



AND BY  
THE WAY,  
THE LAST  
31 YEARS OF  
HIS 62 YEARS  
LONG LIFE,  
HE SPENT  
BLIND...

AT THE SAME TIME  
AS BEING THE  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
OF THE SHIMABARA  
RAILROADS, HE  
RECEIVED A PRIZE  
AT THE LITERARY  
BJTI YOSHIKAWA  
AWARDS!  
HE WAS A TRULY  
TALENTED MAN...



THE FLOOD WAS SO BAD THAT A STRETCH OF 25 MILES OF THE RAILWAY COULDN'T BE USED ANYMORE.

IN ONE NIGHT, BRIDGES GOT DAMAGED IN 46 PLACES, AND THE RAIL-ROAD ITSELF GOT DAMAGED IN 180 PLACES.



IN 1967, THE ISAHAYA REGION WAS HIT BY A BIG FLOOD DISASTER.



SHIMAZU-NO-OKA  
GATE



YOU CAN SEE THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE RIVERS AND FARMS AS WELL, SO YOU'RE ALL THINKING RESTORATION IS IMPOSSIBLE!

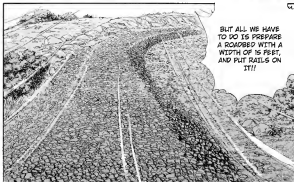
THE FACT THAT I'M BLIND HAS ITS GOOD SIDES TOO!



THE ONLY PERSON THAT WENT AGAINST THAT, WAS MANAGING DIRECTOR MIYATAKI.



BECAUSE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE DISASTER, THE HIGHER-UPS OF SHIMAZU RAILWAYS WERE ALL THINKING OF JUST SAVING THE WHOLE THING UP.



BUT ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PREPARE A ROADBED WITH A WIDTH OF 15 FEET, AND PUT RAILS ON IT!!





NOTE: SHIROGAKI KAMAKURA MEANS THE WHITE SEAGULL.



TOSU  
STATION  
CHUO-KEND

SHAOMAI  
BENTO

700 YEN

SHAOMAI

HUH  
!?

KINSHI  
EGGS

FLAVORED  
RICE

FLAVORED  
CHICKEN

PICKLED  
WHITE RADISH

HMM  
!!

THERE  
IT  
GOES  
...

WE HAD  
CHICKEN  
WITH RICE  
LAST TIME  
TOO,  
RIGHT?

HMM?  
EATING SHUMAI  
TOGETHER  
WITH CHICKEN RICE  
AND KINSHI EGGS.  
HOW LUXURIOUS  
IS THAT?

IN  
KYUSHU  
IT'S  
CALLED DIFFER-  
ENTLY.

OH!!  
IT'S  
THE  
SAME AS  
SHUMAI!







SPECIAL THANKS: KYUSHU RAILWAY COMPANY, JAPAN RAILWAY OFFICIAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, SHIMAZU DAI, OKAWA, AND CHIKARA

END OF CHAPTER 10

CHAPTER 11:

NAGASKI STATION - SHIPPOKU BENTO - BRAISED PORK BENTO  
SASEBO STATION - HIRADO NANBAN AGO BENTO

PHOTOGRAPH - SAN SANJOMEI







AT 7:24 WE  
DEPARTED  
FROM  
NAGASAKI  
STATION ON  
THE NAGASAKI  
MAIN LINE -  
OMURA LINE -  
SASEBO LINE.



HMM,  
WHICH  
ONE  
SHOULD  
I GET  
...

THIS  
ONE  
PLEASE.

TODAY WE  
DECIDED TO  
FIRST GO  
WITH THE  
DIRECT LOCAL  
TRAIN FROM  
NAGASAKI TO  
SASEBO.

STONE  
BENTO  
AND  
ONIGIRI  
(A KIND  
OF RICE  
BALL)



AH  
...

HUH?  
...



ALRIGHT!  
...



WHAT A  
NICE BLUE  
TRAIN!



ONE,  
TWO, THREE  
...



YES,  
SURE!

OK, COUNT  
TO THREE  
AND THEN  
SHOW IT  
...



HOW  
ABOUT  
YOU,  
DAI-  
SUKE?



WHAT  
DID  
YOU  
GET,  
NANA?

NAGASAKI  
STATION  
CHIRACHI  
FOOD SERVICE

NAGASAKI SHIP-  
POKU BENTO

1500 YEN

SILLAGO  
NAGASAKI  
TEMPURA

CHIKUNE  
GUSHI

FRISO TOFU MIXED  
WITH THINLY  
SLICED VEGETABLES

SESAME  
MOCHI  
DANGO

SATKYO MISO  
FRIED FISH

KAMBOKO

BOILED  
SHRIMP

SANSAI

SARDINE  
BURGER

RED AND  
WHITE  
KIMAI

TARO

WHITE  
RICE

NAVY  
BEANS

CARROT

KONJAC

BRASSED  
PORK

HERE  
WE  
GO  
!!



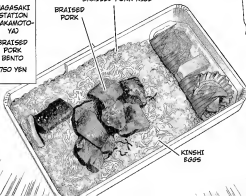
NAGASAKI  
STATION  
(SAKAMOTO-  
YA)

BRASSED  
PORK  
BENTO  
750 YEN

BRASSED PORK RICE

BRASSED  
PORK

KINSHI  
EGGS









THIS  
IS THE  
ONURA  
BAY.

WOW!  
THIS IS  
SO BEAU-  
TIFUL  
!!



AH  
?



HIHI?

WE'RE NOW  
RIDING A  
DIFFERENT  
LINE  
FROM THE  
ONE  
YESTERDAY.



DIDN'T WE  
PASS BY A  
SIMILAR  
PLACE WHEN  
WE WERE  
COMING FROM ISA-  
HAYA YES-  
TERDAY  
?



HIH  
?



ONLY LOCAL  
TRAINS RUN  
ON THIS  
LINE, BUT  
THE SCEN-  
ERY IS  
AMAZING.

TODAY'S  
ROUTE IS  
THE ORIG-  
INAL ROUTE  
BUILT IN  
1968.



SAKURAO  
HAKUSTENBOSCH  
ORIGINAL ROUTE  
NEW ROUTE  
ISAHAYA

YESTERDAY, WE USED THE  
NEW ROUTE, WHICH WAS  
BUILT IN 1972.  
ALL THE EXPRESS TRAINS  
USE THIS INLAND NEW  
ROUTE, SO YOU CAN'T SEE  
THE SEA FROM THERE!



WOW, I'M  
LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO THAT!

WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO  
SEE THIS  
SEA TODAY  
FROM MANY  
DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVES.







2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
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2023  
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2095  
2096  
2097  
2098  
2099  
2100





HEHE... I HAD  
THE FEELING  
ALREADY THAT  
THE INTERVALS  
WERE REALLY  
SHORT!

THE STATIONS  
INTERVAL IS  
200 METERS  
AT THE  
SHORTEST  
POINT, WHICH  
MAKES THIS  
TRAIN AS  
CONVENIENT  
AS A BUS!

THAT'S AN  
INCREASE  
OF 25  
STATIONS  
!

PLUS THE  
NUMBER OF  
STATIONS HAS  
INCREASED  
FROM 32 IN  
THE JR DAYS  
TO 57 NOW!



BUT THAT'S  
ALSO A  
GREAT  
MANAGE-  
MENT  
POLICY

THAT'S RIGHT,  
EVEN IF THEY  
BUILD A  
STATION, THEY  
DON'T SPEND ANY  
MONEY ON THE  
BUILDINGS.



BUT THE  
STATIONS  
LOOK SO  
OLD!



HUH?  
WHERE  
IS  
DAISUKE  
?



WOW, THE  
STATION  
BUILDING  
IS LIKE A  
SMALL  
RAILWAY  
MUSEUM!



B-44  
ARRIVE  
AT  
TABIRA-  
HIRADO-  
GUCHI.

A  
SHORT  
STOP-  
OVER.

YAY!



OH  
!!



SINCE THE OKINAWA "YUI RAIL" HAS BEEN DEVELOPED, Naha AIRPORT STATION HAS BECOME THE WESTERNMOST STATION IN JAPAN.



**SASEBO  
STATION  
(SHOKIKEN)**

**HIRADO  
NANBAN  
AGO RICE**

**700 YEN**

DRIED RADISH

BOTTLED BAMBOO SHOOTS

KIDNEY  
BEANS

CARROT

SHIITAKE

RAINBOW  
BOILED BEANS

PERILLA  
LEAF

FLYING FISH  
CRISP  
OVERNIGHT

RICE FRIED  
IN AGO  
BROTH

FLYING  
FISH  
EGGS

SHIBA  
PICKLES

**TA-  
DAA  
!!**

OK, LET'S  
CHECK IT  
OUT!

WOW...  
THIS IS MY  
FIRST TIME  
TO HAVE  
FLYING  
FISH.

BUT  
WHAT IS  
...  
AGO ?

AGO  
REFERS TO  
THE  
FLYING  
FISH.

**HAAAA!!  
IT'S UNEX-  
PECT-  
EDLY SOFT!**







YEAH, THIS TRAIN CAN JUST RUN ON THE SUBWAY LINES. IT'S THE ONLY JR TRAIN IN KYUSHU THAT RUNS ON DIRECT CURRENT.

HMM? SO THIS TRAIN JUST TURNS INTO SUBWAY LIKE THIS!



THIS TRAIN WILL SOON ENTER THE FUKUOKA SUBWAY NETWORK, DESTINED FOR FUKUOKA AIRPORT.



THIS MOUNTAIN, HIRAFURI MOUNTAIN (LITERALLY THE SHAWL-WAVING MOUNTAIN) GOT ITS NAME FROM PRINCESS SAYO MATSURA, WHO CLEMBED ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN AND WAVED HER SHAWL AT HER HUSBAND SAEHIKO OTOMONO, WHO HAD DISPATCHED TROOPS TO SHIRASU.



ISUS LEAVING WATADA STATION



LOOK AT THE MOUNTAIN ON THE RIGHT SIDE!



THIS IS A FAMOUS ROCK WHICH IS WHERE PRINCESS SAYO IS SAID TO HAVE WAITED FOR HER BELOVED HUSBAND TO RETURN FROM SHIRASU, AFTER SHE CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN.



NOW LOOK DOWN TO THE LEFT







REALLY?  
CAN WE  
SEE IT  
FROM  
HERE?



KOREA IS  
ON THE  
OTHER SIDE  
OF THIS  
SEA, YOU  
KNOW.

WELL, THIS  
IS THE  
JENKAI SEA,  
WHICH IS  
FAMOUS FOR  
ITS ROUGH  
WAVES, AFTER  
ALL.

BUT THE  
SEA IS  
QUITE  
ROUGH.



WE  
MIGHT  
BE  
ABLE  
TO CATCH  
THE  
SUNSET!

NANA,  
LET'S GO  
TO HAKATA  
HARBOR.



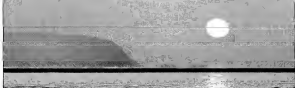
WE'RE  
FI-  
NALLY  
HERE!  
  
SMELLS  
LIKE A  
BIG  
CITY!

MISS  
ARRIVAL  
AT  
HAKATA  
STATION



GRAND HOTEL  
BUS  
INTERNATIONAL TOURIST CENTER  
IN FRONT OF THE STATION  
BUS TICKETS, TRAVEL AGENCIES





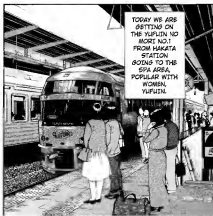
END OF CHAPTER 11

SPECIAL THANKS: KOREAN RAILWAY COMPANY, JAPAN RAILWAY INTERNATIONAL, BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, AND MATSUYAMA RAILWAY

CHAPTER 12 :

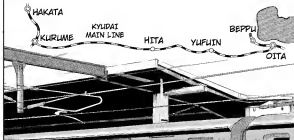
HAKATA STATION - FLAVORS OF KYUSHU - GENKAI CHIRASHI  
"YUFUIN NO MORI" TRAIN VENDOR - YUFUIN NO MORI BENTO













**HAKATA  
STATION  
(JR SERVICE  
NET  
FUKUOKA)**

**FLAVORS  
OF KYUSHU**

**1050 YEN**

**SQUID  
SHIMAI**

**KASUJIKU  
WITH  
VEGETABLES  
(SAGA)**

**STEWED PORK CHIB  
(NAGASAKI)**

**DEEP FRIED  
FISH  
(KOKURA)**

**KARAIHI  
MENTADKO  
(HAKATA)**

**EGG  
ROLL**

**BOILED  
SHIITAKE AND CARROT  
OJITA**

**SKEWERED  
CHICKEN TSUKUNE  
(MIYAZAKI)**

**HERE  
WE  
GO  
!!**

**MUSTARD LOTUS  
ROOT  
(KUMAMOTO)**

**TAKKAN**

**SATSUMA-AGE  
(KAGOSHIMA)**

**WHITE RICE**

**SMALL UMBROSHE**

**HAKATA  
STATION  
(HAKATA  
EKIBEN  
KOTOBUKI-  
KEN)**

**GENKAI  
CHIRASHI**

**750 YEN**

**MARINATED  
SHRIMP**

**RED GINGER**

**KARAYAKI  
STYLE ROASTED  
ANAGO**

**AND  
THIS  
IS  
MINE  
!!**

**MARINATED  
OCTOPUS**

**SLUSHIE RICE**

**GINKGO  
NUT**

**KINSHI  
EGGS**

**DENBU**

**SHIITAKE**

**HONEYWORT**

**MARINATED  
SEA BREAM**

OH  
RIGHT...  
THIS IS  
THE LAST  
DAY OF MY  
JOURNEY  
TOGETHER  
WITH  
NANA...



LOOKING  
AT THIS,  
IT'S AS  
WE'RE RE-  
LIVING THE  
EXPERIENCE  
WE HAD IN  
KYUSHU  
UNTIL  
NOW!



HEHE...  
ISN'T  
THIS ONE  
AMAZING?  
THERE'S AN  
ITEM FROM  
EVERY  
SINGLE  
KYUSHU  
REGION,  
YOU SEE!



THAT  
WAS  
ALSO  
IN  
THE  
CHICKEN  
BENTO  
WE  
HAD!

AND  
SA-  
TSU-  
MA-  
AGE  
...



HMMM!  
IT'S SOAKED  
IN SOY SALICE  
AND BROTH!  
WHAT AN  
AMAZING  
TASTE!



WE HAD  
BOILED  
SHIITAKE  
WHEN I  
MET UP  
WITH YOU  
AGAIN THAT  
TIME,  
DAISUKI.



LOOK,  
THIS IS  
MARI-  
NATED  
SEA  
BREAM!



OH...



EH?

SO,  
DAI-  
SUKE,  
WHAT'S  
IN  
YOURS?



NANA  
...



HMMM!



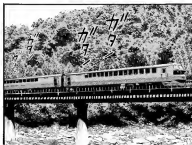
FINELY  
CHOPPED  
KABAYAKI-  
STYLE  
ANAGO!

OH,  
AND  
LOOK  
HERE!



THE SEA  
BREAM  
SEEMS  
FRESH,  
AND IT'S  
GLITS  
CRUNCHY!

THIS SUSHI  
RICE IS  
GOOD! THE  
EXACT RIGHT  
AMOUNT OF  
VINEGAR,  
MAKING IT  
HEAT UP THE  
APPETITE!





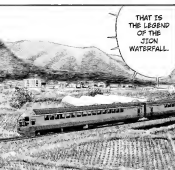
THERE  
MUST BE THE  
SPIRIT OF A  
GUARDIAN  
SNAKE IN THE  
POOL UNDER  
THE WATER-  
FALL!

WHAH!  
HOW  
BEAUTIFUL!  
IT LOOKS  
ALMOST  
MAGICAL!

SO  
THERE  
WAS  
ONE  
AFTER  
ALL....

THERE USED TO BE  
A GIANT SNAKE LIVING  
IN THE POOL UNDER THE  
WATERFALL. BECAUSE IT  
SUFFERED FROM A  
DISEASE, AND IT COULDN'T  
BEAR THE PAIN, IT KEPT  
ON WREAKING HAVOC  
ON THE RICE  
FIELDS.

THERE'S A  
LEGEND, THAT  
HUNDREDS OF  
YEARS AGO.



THAT IS  
THE LEGEND  
OF THE  
JEON  
WATERFALL.

TO  
EXPRESS  
THEIR  
GRATITUDE  
TOWARDS  
THE MONK,  
THE  
VILLAGERS  
BUILT THE  
JEON  
TEMPLE.

BUT THEN,  
A TRAVELLING  
MONK PASSED  
THE AREA, WHO  
WAS ABLE TO  
CURE THE  
SNAKE'S DISEASE,  
AND SO, PEACE  
RETURNED TO  
THE VILLAGE.



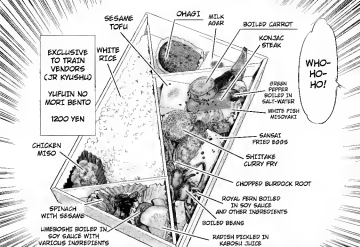














IN 1990 IT  
GOT EXPANDED  
FROM THREE  
COMPARTMENTS  
TO FOUR  
COMPARTMENTS,  
AND IN 1992 IT  
STARTED DOING  
THREE ROUND-  
TRIPS A DAY  
INSTEAD OF  
JUST ONE...

JR KYUSHU  
HAS ALWAYS  
HAD A GOOD  
REPUTATION  
FOR ITS  
GOOD TASTE  
IN THEIR  
NEW  
MODELS.



KIHA 58 TYPE



IT WAS A  
KIHA 71, A  
REVISION  
OF THE KIHA  
58 AND 66  
FROM THE  
OLD DAYS.

WHAT!  
IT'S  
SO  
DIFFER-  
ENT!



KIHA 71 TYPE

SO THE  
ONE WE RODE  
THIS MORNING  
WAS THE 'YUFUIN  
NO MORI' NO.1,  
THE NEWEST  
TYPE.



KIHA 71



KIHA 72

AND THEN,  
IN 1993, THEY  
ADDED A NEW KIHA  
TYPE 72 TO  
THEIR ARSENAL,  
AND THAT'S  
HOW THE  
SITUATION  
STILL LOOKS  
LIKE UP TO  
TODAY.



NANA  
...



SO I'M  
LISTEN-  
ING  
WITH MY  
WHOLE  
HEART!

IT'S THE  
LAST  
OPPOR-  
TUNITY I  
HAVE TO  
LISTEN TO  
YOU TALK  
LIKE THIS!



YEAH,  
I AM...

HM...?  
ARE  
YOU  
LISTEN-  
ING?





LIKE THAT, MY KYUSHU TOUR TOGETHER WITH NANA HAD FINALLY COME TO AN END.



SPECIAL THANKS KOKUSHU RAILWAY COMPANY AND JAPAN RAILWAYS INTERNAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

END OF CHAPTER 12

FIRST RELEASE



MANGA ACTION  
FROM 2005 JULY 19TH ISSUE  
TO 2006 JANUARY 3RD ISSUE

ACTION COMICS  
EKIBEN HITORITABI 1  
FIRST EDITION MAY 20TH 2006  
SEVENTH EDITION MARCH 5TH 2008

ACTION COMICS

駅弁ひとり旅

2006年 5月20日 第1刷発行  
2008年 3月 5日 第7刷発行

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DRAWING: JUN HAYASE

PUBLISHER: TOSHIOYUKI SATOU

PUBLISHED BY: FUTABASHA PUBLISHERS LTD

BONDEN: KAZUNORI OKI VOLARE INC

PRINTED AT: GANKO PRINTING CO., LTD

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<http://www.futabasha.co.jp/>

ISBN 4-49-000000-0